



Evidence-Based Rehabilitation — Overview

Improving public safety through individual success

The Public Safety and Offender Rehabilitation Services Act of 2007

On May 2, 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger signed AB 900, the Public Safety and Offender Rehabilitation Services Act of 2007. This important legislation gives the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) the foundation to move California away from an outdated model of incarceration to institutions that promote change and success. These reforms are designed to help offenders succeed, reduce prison overcrowding, lower recidivism, strengthen public safety and save taxpayer costs.

Goals of California's Adult Rehabilitation Reform

- Use evidence-based programs to prepare offenders for success.
- Strengthen public safety by reducing victimization and recidivism.
- Save taxpayer costs.

The three “R’s” of Adult Rehabilitation Reform

- REDUCE victimization through changing offender behavior.
- REFOCUS programs through use of proven practices.
- REUNITE offenders with their families and community with a job and support system.

REHABilitation

- RE-FOCUS from solely incarcerating offenders to rehabilitating them.
- EDUCATE offenders to find jobs and turn away from crime.
- HOLD ACCOUNTABLE inmates for changing their lives and programs for using evidence-based practices.
- ASSESS offender risks and needs to assign them to the right program at the right time for maximum effectiveness.
- BUILD bridges with communities to strengthen offenders' chances of success to reduce victimization and improve public safety.

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Why we must change

- More than 95% of California prisoners will eventually return to their local communities.
- California has among the highest recidivism rates in the nation.
- CDCR's rehabilitation reforms are designed to prepare inmates for a successful reintegration into their communities in order to reduce re-victimization and recidivism.
- The waste of human potential and the devastation to families will be alleviated if inmates are prepared for success upon release.
- When offenders receive effective rehabilitation programming to help them turn away from a life of crime, California is safer.
- Prison population reductions due to evidence-based rehabilitation could result in significant savings for the state.

Reform Project Design

In June 2007, the Expert Panel on Adult Offender Recidivism Reduction Programming issued a report to the California Legislature on effective evidence-based rehabilitation practices for our state. In December 2007, the Governor's Rehabilitation Strike Team issued a report on how to effectively implement these reforms. The reforms are designed around these core concepts:

- Use the new evidence-based California Logic Model to place the right offender into the right program at the right time, for maximum effectiveness.
- Eliminate services not supported by research, and replace them with evidence-based programs.
- Create a case plan for each offender to govern the delivery of programs and services from intake through release back into the community.
- Build strong partnerships with the community to provide jobs and a support system to enhance the offender's chance of success and keep the community safe.
- Evaluate program effectiveness, and make adjustments as needed.

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Implementation Tracks

- Track I: Improve what we have – increase utilization of current programs and services.
- Track 2: Launch the evidence-based California Logic Model.
- Track 3: Implement the new model at all institutions, reentry facilities, and parole offices.

Reform Progress Highlights (as of March 2009)

- Began implementation of the California Logic Model based on eight evidence-based rehabilitation principles and practices shown to reduce recidivism.
- Launched, for the first time, an offender risk and needs assessment instrument – Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS) – to place the right offender in the right program at the right time.
- Added 2,000 substance abuse treatment slots, to be fully operational by June 2009.
- Increased academic and vocational education program utilization.
- Obtained additional rehabilitation services.
- Developed a prison-to-employment plan, *California New Start*, and began implementation using California's existing employment services infrastructure of local Workforce Investment Boards and one-stop centers.

For additional information, see *California Logic Model*, *COMPAS Assessment Tool Launched*, *Reform Project Design*, and *California New Start*, at www.cdcr.ca.gov/rehabilitation.



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Adult Rehabilitation

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